

The Military Internist

1. The internist provides definitive care for soldiers and other adults in clinic, hospital and field settings. The internist participates in and coordinates the efforts of multi-disciplinary teams in each of these settings.
2. The internist maximizes the health of the command with expertise in infectious diseases, individual preventive care and environmental disorders.
3. The internist cares for the military combat trauma casualty as the peri-operative consultant and in the intensive care unit.
4. The internist is the principal care provider for the casualty with radiation, biologic and chemical injuries.
5. The internist is a versatile specialist in adult medical disorders whose depth of knowledge, problem solving skills, and ability to work in and lead multi-disciplinary teams affect optimal diagnosis and management of health risks to the command in a resource-constrained environment.

Military Critical Subjects

Clinical areas with which a military internist should have a greater experience or depth of knowledge than an internist would typically require for practice in a civilian environment in the United States. They may include subjects normally considered part of a civilian training curriculum but have substantially greater importance in military practice.

Military Unique Subjects

Clinical, operational or administrative areas germane to military operations which have no direct application to the practice of internal medicine in US civilian setting and concerning which a civilian-trained internist would have little, if any, knowledge or experience.

Military Unique Curriculum in Internal Medicine

The attached matrix identifies areas that should be incorporated into the training of military internal medicine physicians in order to adequately prepare them to provide high quality medical care in an operational setting. For many aspects of the curriculum, avenues are suggested for providing coverage of the material (marked with an "X"). These are suggestions only -- and each training program is likely to differ somewhat in the experiences available to their residents. Furthermore, differences in needs between services may necessitate modifying this curriculum based upon service-specific factors.

It is recommended that each training program provide an operational experience for residents during their residency in order to facilitate learning of, and experience with, field-specific topics. Ideally, this should include experience with triage, echelons of care, and the set-up of deployable care facilities. Residents should also be encouraged to pursue electives that will enhance military medical skills. Another significant opportunity to disseminate knowledge of military unique topics is at the American College of Physicians meetings held by each service annually. Each service should attempt to maximize the number of residents that are able to attend the meetings, and to emphasize military relevant topics at the meetings. In addition, residents may benefit from tropical medicine courses and other military relevant symposia available through Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and elsewhere.

With regard to the attached matrix, didactic institutional opportunities would include mass casualty exercises, Common Task Training, Transition to Practice Seminars, and lectures geared toward the institution as a whole, whereas didactic departmental opportunities would include conferences and activities focused on members of a single specialty.

Category	Topic	Didactic Instituti onal	Didactic Dptmnt ental	Clinical or Practical Experience	Chem-Bio Course
Cardiology	Emergency Vascular Access			X	
	Hypotension and Shock		X	X	
	Cardiopulmonary Hemodynamics		X	X	
	Exercise testing and over 40 screen		X	X	
Endocrinology	Stress and Nutrition		X	X	
Gastroenterology	Infectious Diarrhea		X	X	
	Hepatitis		X	X	
General Medicine	Health Maintenance, deployability		X	X	
	Vaccinations, routine and deployment		X	X	
	Premenopausal gynecological problems		X	X	
	Substance abuse		X	X	
Hematology-Oncology	Transfusion medicine		X	X	
	Pain management		X	X	
	Hemostasis			X	
Infectious Diseases	Common viral syndromes		X	X	
	Tuberculosis		X	X	
	Sexually transmitted diseases		X	X	
	Community acquired pneumonia		X	X	
	Malaria		X	X	
	Tropical and parasitic diseases		X	X	
	Food and water borne illnesses		X	X	
Category	Topic	Didactic Institu- tional	Didactic Departm ental	Clinical or Practical Experience	Chem-Bio Course
Nephrology	Acute renal failure and hemodialysis		X	X	
	Acid-base and electrolytes		X	X	
	Crush injury and rhabdomyolysis		X	X	
	Fluid resuscitation and oral rehydration		X	X	
Pulmonary/Critical Care	Mechanical ventilation		X	X	
	Septic shock, multi-organ failure		X	X	
	Adult respiratory distress syndrome		X	X	
	Drug overdose and poisoning		X	X	
	Hyperbaric medicine		X		

Rheumatology Dermatology	High altitude illnesses		X			
	Atopic and contact dermatitis		X		X	
	Fungal skin infections		X		X	
	Trench foot, blisters and cellulitis		X		X	
Emergency Medicine						
Category	Spinal cord injury					
	Closed head injury				X	
	Heat injuries		X		X	
	Cold injuries		X		X	
	Common eye emergencies		X			
	Bites, stings and envenomation				X	
	Topic	Didactic Institutional	Didactic Departmental		Clinical or Practical Experience	Chem-Bio Course
Surgical Specialties						
Orthopedics	ATLS and resuscitation				X	
	Medical management of burns				X	
	Pre-operative risk assessment		X		X	
	Post-operative care		X		X	
	Wound healing		X			
	Wound Infections		X		X	
	Chest tubes and drains				X	
	Common lower extremity problems		X		X	
	Common upper extremity problems		X		X	
	Back pain		X		X	
Neuro-Psychiatry						
Category	Anxiety disorders			X	X	
	Combat psychiatry			X	X	
	Post-traumatic stress disorder				X	
	Somatization			X	X	
	Coma and delirium			X	X	
	Topic	Didactic Institutional	Didactic Departmental		Clinical or Practical Experience	Chem-Bio Course
Military Unique Topics						
	History of the Medical Corps					
	TeleMedicine	X	X			
	Aerospace and hypobaric medicine					
	Profiles/Limited Duty		X		X	
	Medical Boards					
	Entrance, Periodic, and Exit Physicals		X		X	
	DEPMEDS equipment and doctrine	X				
	Uniform Code of Military Justice					
	Military protocol				X	
	Chemical casualties)
	Biologic casualties)
	Radiation casualties					
	Combat trauma--ballistics and blast					
	Aeromedical evacuation					

Preparation for deployment	X		
Disaster medicine		X	
Mass casualty exercises & Triage	X		
Military evaluations and promotion			
Casualty reporting, mortuary affairs			
Geneva: Docs, POWs and refugees			
Medical Logistics			
TMCs, Sick call and Medic supervision			
Duties of the Staff Surgeon			
Land Mine injuries			
Operations other than war			
Terrorism and bombings			
Echelons of Care	X		
Electrocutions and Drownings		X	X
Medical Intelligence and planning			